

South Dakota Highway Patrol

Recruiting Document



SDHP Recruiting Division

(605)-773-2231

http://dps.sd.gov/enforcement/highway_patrol/

~South Dakota at a Glance~

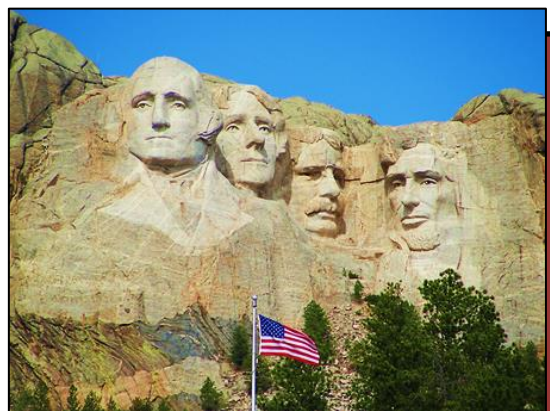
Located in our country's heartland, South Dakota has plenty to offer. South Dakota is home to Mt. Rushmore, our nation's symbol of democracy, the beautiful Black Hills, home to some of the best mountain biking, skiing, off-roading and rock climbing east of the Rockies, the Missouri River, home to some of the best fishing in the nation, and a wide variety of great hunting.



South Dakota's quality of life is second to none. Low crime rates, low cost of living and outstanding healthcare and education systems makes South Dakota a great place to live, work and raise a family.

A career with the Highway Patrol offers you and your family the opportunities to experience all the activities that South Dakota has to offer. A flexible work schedule allows you to spend both quality time with your family as well as work in one of the safest places in the United States for law enforcement officers.

Additionally, a career with the Highway Patrol offers paid health insurance for you and for your family. As a trooper, you also have membership in the South Dakota "Class B" retirement system. The South Dakota Retirement System is one of the most stable and profitable retirement systems in the country.



A Brief History of the Highway Patrol

In 1935, the Governor of South Dakota, Tom Berry, recognized the need for an organization to enforce the traffic laws and provide assistance to the motoring public, appointed ten men that were known as the "Courtesy Patrol". The new officers were assigned to patrol the 2,000 miles of hard surfaced roads and 4,000 miles of gravel highways. Duty assignments required the officers to work seven days a week, twelve hours a day, and the officers were subject to call twenty-four hours a day. The Courtesy Patrol rules required them to stop and aid all motorists on the highway. If the motorist was changing a tire, the patrolman stopped to help. He never left a stalled automobile until the driver was safely on his way.



The Courtesy Patrol was disbanded in 1937 and the new Motor Patrol was founded. In 1956 the Motor Patrol was officially changed to the Highway Patrol. The patrol continued to meet demands by purchasing four door patrol cars with air conditioning, creating the operations manual, starting recruit training and in-service schools, and beginning a firearms qualification program in the 1960s. The Motor Vehicle Safety Inspection Program was approved and the state employee's retirement system was created. In the 1970s the Patrol formed the Initial Response Unit a precursor to SWAT. Throughout the 1980s to the 2000's the patrol continued to grow more technologically advanced with the addition of laptops to all patrol cars and the use of electronically written tickets. The latest in technology has enabled the Patrol to successfully counter Drug and DUI offenders.

Under the direction of fifteen governors and thirteen superintendents, the men and women of the South Dakota Highway Patrol moved from a reactive organization to a proactive group of men and women who anticipate changes in highway safety and enforcement techniques. The Patrol has matured into a professional law enforcement agency prepared to respond to the ever changing needs of the public it serves. The Troopers of the Highway Patrol wear the uniform and badge with pride and distinction.

~Benefits~

As a member of the South Dakota Highway Patrol and an employee of the State of South Dakota, you will receive these benefits:

- Complete salary during the recruit academy
- 15 days annual leave per year (20 days paid annual leave after 15 years of service)
- 14 sick days per year (sick leave is accumulated and carried over each year)
- 10 paid holidays
- Health Insurance is paid by the state for employees
- Health Insurance with family options paid by the employee at group rates
- Life Insurance for employees paid by the state
- Workers Compensation
- Per diem paid for each day worked
- All uniforms and equipment paid by the state
- Take home Patrol Vehicle
- Membership to the “Class B” South Dakota Retirement System and Supplemental Retirement System

~Respect~



~Courtesy~

~Opportunities~

The South Dakota Highway Patrol's mission is to promote highway safety throughout the State of South Dakota through enforcement, education and example. However, a career with the Highway Patrol does not stop there. As a trooper with the South Dakota Highway Patrol you have the opportunity to be a part of several elite law enforcement units, including:

- SWAT
- Police Service Dog
- Honor Guard
- Aviation Division
- Capitol Protective Services
- Crash Reconstruction
- Academy Instruction
- Executive Protection Detail
- Criminal Interdiction

~Discipline~



~Expertise~

~Challenge~

The Highway Patrol is looking for a diverse group of men and women to meet the challenges of being a state trooper. The South Dakota Highway Patrol wants individuals with honor, integrity and great moral character. If you are up to the challenge of being part of one the most elite law enforcement agencies in the state of South Dakota, a career with the Highway Patrol is for you.

~Commitment to Excellence~



~Integrity~

~Collaboration~

~Minimum Qualifications~

- Age 21 years before hire date
- High school Diploma or GED
- Good physical condition
- Good character background with no felony convictions
- 20/20 binocular vision corrected or uncorrected, with normal depth perception and color vision and normal field of view as determined by an optometrist
- Normal hearing in both ears
- Willing to be stationed anywhere in South Dakota and respond to duty 24 hours a day
- In compliance with SDHP tattoo policy

~Automatic Disqualifiers~

- DUI arrest within two years of appointment
- Marijuana use within two years of appointment
- Use of a controlled substance (i.e. Cocaine or Methamphetamine) within five years of appointment
- Any misuse of a prescription medication within two years of appointment
- Does not meet the SDHP tattoo policy (no visible tattoo when wearing a short sleeved uniform shirt or a tattoo anywhere on your body that would be considered offensive. You have the option of having the tattoo/tattoos removed.

~Selection Process~

- Complete the Law Enforcement Written Examination. Must score 60% or higher
- Complete the application and personnel data questionnaire with BHR
- Phase 1 Interview and Physical Testing
- Extensive Background Investigation
- Phase 2 Interview
- Polygraph examination

~Employment~

Upon completion of the selection process, the most qualified applicants will be offered employment with the South Dakota Highway Patrol.

~Loyalty~



~Dedication~

Are you ready to serve?

Employee Satisfaction

The South Dakota Highway Patrol is a forward thinking law enforcement agency. If you are looking for an honorable career and a great working atmosphere, look no further. We are looking for highly motivated individuals who are service orientated and interested in making a difference in South Dakota and serving their community.

SDHP Survey Results

The SDHP conducted an anonymous internal employee survey in 2015. 92% of employees stated the Highway Patrol is a good place to work.

SDHP Employee Testimonials

“I am very satisfied with the SDHP. I believe this is a well-oiled agency and I am honored to be part of this great organization. Kudos to all the supervisors in the agency!”

“All and all, the Highway Patrol is a great place to work and the people are outstanding. I have always liked my job and the staff I work with. The patrol being a second family is something unique to this agency.”

“I genuinely love working for the Highway Patrol. Everyone has been great and I feel like people want me to be here. I have never felt that way about any job I have ever worked in! I like to hear when I am doing a good job and I feel like my supervisor does a good job of noticing when I do my work well. Thanks so much!”

**For more information contact the South Dakota
Highway Patrol Recruiting Office at:**

(605)-773-2231

Visit Our Web Site At:

http://dps.sd.gov/enforcement/highway_patrol/

Follow us on:

**[https://www.facebook.com/SDHighwayPatrol/timeline
?ref=page_internal](https://www.facebook.com/SDHighwayPatrol/timeline?ref=page_internal)**

<https://twitter.com/SDHighwayPatrol>

**For more information on steps to apply for the
Highway Patrol, visit the Bureau of Human Resources
at:**

<http://bhr.sd.gov/workforus/hp/default.aspx>